MGW
MOM... GUESS WHAT! NEWSPAPER
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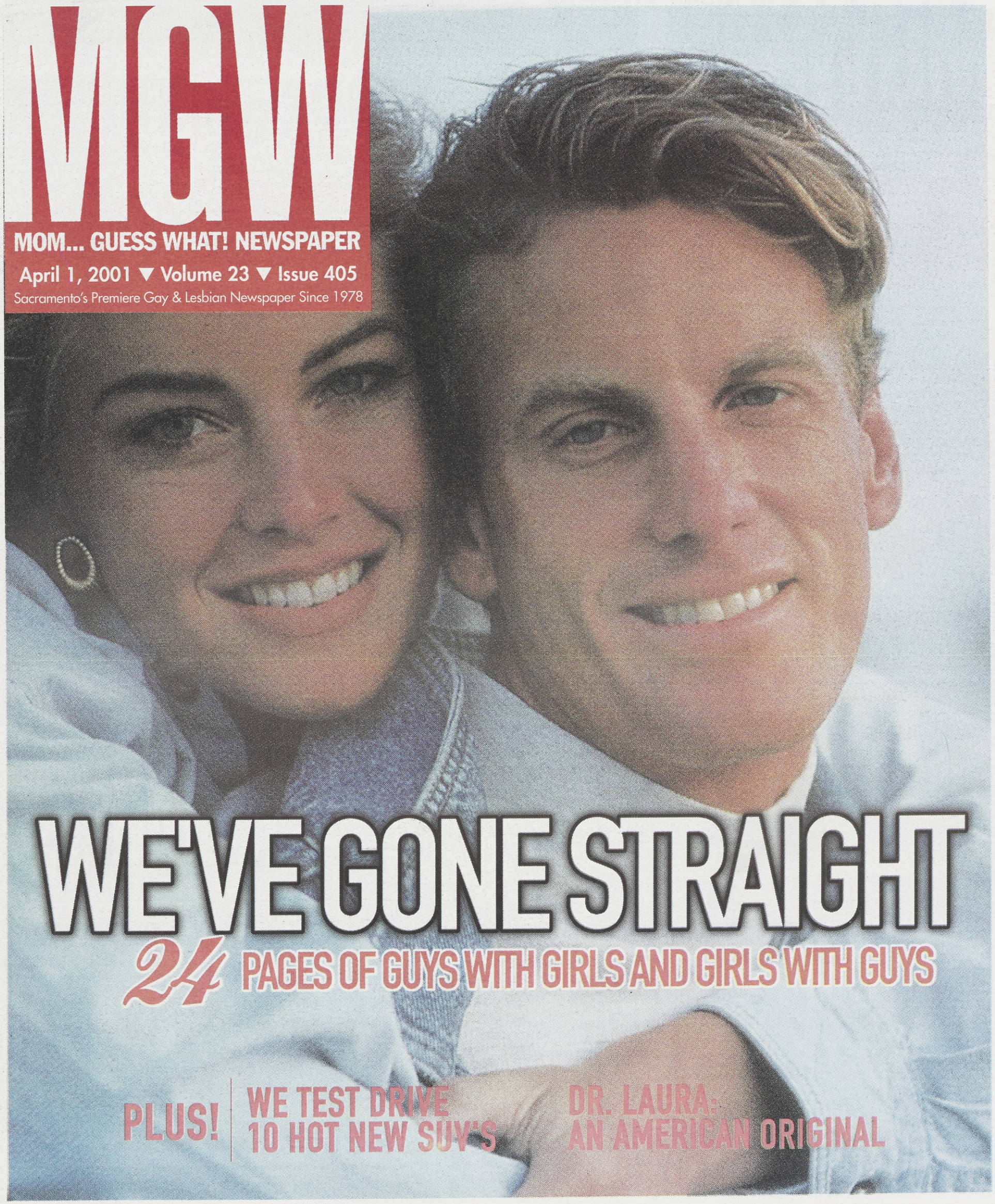
Sacramento's Premiere Gay & Lesbian Newspaper Since 1978



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MGW readers are interested in what you have to say! For verification, letters to the Editor must include a signature, printed name, address and phone number. Names can be withheld if requested. MGW reserves the right to edit for brevity, content and slander. See staff box at left for mailing and contact information.

Shower Of Stoles Comes To Davis

Dear Editor

Davis Community Church (DCC) is sponsoring a visit of the Shower of Stoles Project. The project is a collection of liturgical stoles gathered from GLBT Christians who have not been able to respond to their call to ordained ministry, ordained GLBT Christians who serve the church but have to remain closeted in their service, and straight supporters working for the ordination of all God's children who are called to ministry

DCC is bringing Martha Juillerat, director of the Shower of Stoles Project, to speak to our congregation on Sunday morning, April 22, at 10am. In connection with her visit, she will be bringing hundreds of stoles, which will be displayed in our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall over that weekend.

A public viewing of the stoles will be held on Saturday afternoon, April 21, from 2 to 5pm during which all the stoles will be on display and during which Martha will be present. The reception will be held in our Fellowship Hall (421 D Street) in downtown Davis.

The stoles themselves are a powerful visual witness to the loss of leadership Christian congregations are suffering because of our current ordination policies. The stories that go with them are moving and encourage us to continue to work to change those policies.

Sincerely,
Jim Kitchens
Co-Pastor Davis
Community Church

The End Of Pegase?

Dear Editor,

Well my friends, I have been told Mercury is in Retrograde until Sunday and considering the events this past week I believe it. There is no Deep Dish tonight...in fact there will be no Friday night performance at Pegase as well. They gave it their best shot and unfortunately today I was given the news that they will be closing their doors as of today. So sorry for any inconvenience. I personally would like to wish them well, **Chris**, **Mike** and everyone else. They tried doing something really different for Sacramento but I guess our sleepy little town wasn't quite ready for it.

I, of course, will continue doing my thing. Saturday night you can see me at ENOTRIA, another unique dining spot for our precious city. By next week I should have a new Friday night gig, and Deep Dish will continue.

Rigatony and I are looking for a new home for this wonderful event you all have been supporting...stay tuned we'll let you know. Anyway come on out Saturday night 7-10pm at ENOTRIA 916-922-6792 and we'll share some beats together.

Till then and always peace.
Tony
Sacramento, CA

Exposing Christian Hypocrisy

Dear Editor,

Christians are a strange lot. If you don't believe me, just ask one why homosexuality is a sin. Chances are the answer will be, "Because it says so in Leviticus." Follow that up by asking why getting your side burns trimmed or eating a plate of Sonny's BBQ ribs is not a sin. The answer will probably be, "Jesus changed all that." Ah ha! So if he changed all that, why didn't he change the part about homosexuality?

During his ministry on earth homosexuals were as common as heterosexuals, yet according to the Gospels, he spoke not one single word about them. The homosexual lifestyle was not only acceptable, but quite popular in those days. One would think that if it were such a horrible sin, Jesus would have at least mentioned it. He reportedly had plenty to say about adultery, which was probably a lot less common in those days than homosexuality.

Adultery is mentioned the first time in Matthew 5:28 where he is quoted saying, "But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in heart." Further, in verse 32, the writer has him say, "...I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery." While in Judea, in answer to a question put to him by the Pharisees, he reiterates what he quoted as saying in verse 32. Adultery is also mentioned in Chapter 10:11-12 of Mark's Gospel, in which mark quotes him as saying, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery." Strangely, Mark omits the qualifying statement, "except for marital unfaithfulness," used by Matthew.

All this about adultery and not one word about homosexuality! Why do you think that was? Surely Jesus must have been aware that is was being practiced openly back then. He was aware of everything else. Isn't it possible that homosexuality may be no more a sin than eating a plate of ribs at Sonny's? Isn't it also possible that among his disciples and followers there were homosexuals? All twelve of his disciples were young, virile males, none of which women appeared to be the least interested in women. That, alone, is odd. It was customary in those times for men of their age to marry and start raising families.

The irony in all this is that Christians who reject the homosexual lifestyle open their arms, hearts, and church membership to sinful and immoral adulterers and adulteresses. If this is not hypocrisy, nothing is.

Harold R. Larimer
Leesburg, FL

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A REMINDER if you have an issue with the Sacramento Police Department, there is a group of SPD officers and civilians that volunteer to help facilitate better communications between the GLBT community and the SPD. Please call them with your concerns.

Redistricting 101: How It Affects GLBT Issues

By Winnie Stachelberg and Mike Mings
MGW Guest Writers

WASHINGTON, DC - Every ten years since 1790, the federal government has undertaken the enormous task of counting every person in the country as part of a requirement in the Constitution. These figures - used by businesses and demographic experts - help to determine federal contracts and aid. The original intent of a national census, however, was to assess changes in the population for equal representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The census conducted in 2000 will be used to determine the number of House seats that each state is assigned; this is known as reapportionment. Each state must then redraw all of its congressional districts based on population shifts in a process known as redistricting.

With nearly all House districts being redrawn, the political landscape for the 108th Congress is unclear. Below is an assessment of the reapportionment and redistricting that will occur before the 2002 federal elections get started.

The census and sampling

The U.S. Census Bureau surveyed the American people on April 1, 2000. Millions of questionnaires were mailed and thousands of counters canvassed the country. The final numbers of the census count, and the official number of representatives each state will receive, will be released from March to July 2001.

While the vast majority of Americans were counted accurately, many people and groups were missed or undercounted. People of color, people living in poverty, and transient persons were the most challenging to capture. Some Democratic members of Congress proposed a sampling process to estimate the extent to which these constituencies were not represented and most Republicans favored numbers garnered from a hard count only.

Reapportionment

While the final state numbers are forthcoming, it appears that the following states will lose House seats: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. States that stand to gain include Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, North Carolina and Texas. The movement of these seats in Congress is consistent with that of the last 200 years, as Americans move west to the Sun Belt.

To determine these numbers, each state gets one representative, then the remaining 385 are split among the states based on new population figures. Most districts will be roughly equal in population; the figure for the 1990's was around 640,000 to 660,000. Small states regardless of size are ensured one representative.

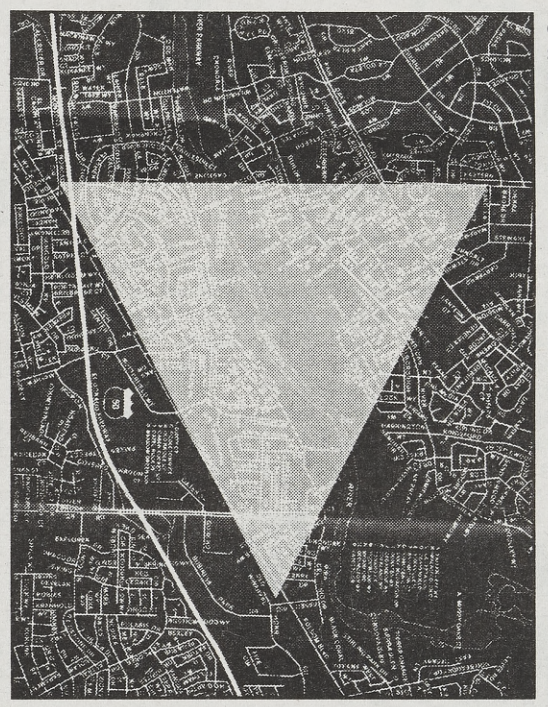
Redistricting

Redrawing federal and state legislative lines is generally a responsibility left to the state legislatures, and many do it differently. For federal lines, seven states will have only one delegate making these decisions: Vermont, Delaware, Montana, Wyoming, Alaska, North and South Dakota. Seven states, Arizona, Washington, Idaho, Hawaii, Maine, Connecticut, and New Jersey, employ an independent commission. The remaining thirty-six are mapped by the legislatures. Each district is required to be nearly equal in population and must be contiguous and remain as compact as possible.

In 1991 and 1992, new Justice Department regulations required states to attempt to bolster the representation of minorities by concentrating constituencies in one district. A series of court cases since then has determined that race may not be a deciding factor in drawing lines, but can be considered. Political parties, communities and incumbency protection can also be factored.

Most states will roll out their plans for districts over the next year; some will work into next year. The goals will be to allow time for candidates and voters to know their districts well before the state primaries. States with early congressional primaries, therefore, will be required to produce maps earlier than those that normally have primaries in August or September.

The Justice Department requires sixteen states to submit their plans to the department for approval because



their maps in the past did not meet its requirements. These shortcomings were mostly based on race and occurred mostly in the southern states.

The gay district

Some in the GLBT community have expressed interest in creating a majority-minority district that would create a GLBT majority in a given place. This plan is difficult because it would require finding nearly 400,000 GLBT persons in an area that is compact and contiguous. Further, it is also not likely to be looked upon favorably by map drawers or the Justice Department because data used in drawing maps is derived from the census, which has never included a question regarding sexual orientation on its surveys.

Scenarios for select states

While the new numbers and new lines have yet to be announced or implemented, one thing is certain: Redistricting will produce a dramatic increase in marginal and vulnerable incumbents, both early and late in the cycle. At their time of need - even if it is a perceived need, or does not come to fruition - incumbent members of Congress will come to their supporters, including the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), to ask for help. Like other political action committees, HRC will be expected to increase its contributions to most of its friends.

Here are two examples of what might happen following redistricting. It is important to remember that these decisions have not yet been made and are therefore subject to change.

California

After gaining seven seats in the 1990's reapportionment, California will get only one new seat this time, due to slower growth as a result of a recession in the early 1990's. Also new for this cycle is an all-Democratic lineup of the governor, the Senate, and the Assembly. Because Democrats picked up four seats in the 2000 election, the first priority of map drawers is likely to protect these new Democratic incumbents - Mike Honda, Jane Harman, Susan
Davis, and Adam Schiff - all of whom HRC supported in 2000. A new Hispanic-majority district may also be created in the Los Angeles area, which had the most relative growth in the state. Democratic mapmakers could attempt to shift precincts around in the fifty-three districts to force some marginal Republican seats into pick-up opportunities for Democrats.

Nevada

An HRC ally, Democratic Representative Shelley Berkley, first Congressional District, also faces an uncertain future. A third of Nevada residents did not live there in 1990, and public officials are constantly pressed to introduce themselves to their own constituents. Nevada picks up one seat and in the split-controlled Nevada legislature, the shift of a few precincts from Berkley's first district to the new district could damage the lawmaker's prospects for re-election. She may be required her to raise more money and run a tough campaign following the two difficult races she won in 1998 and 2000.

Conclusion

To account for the ever-changing face of America, and its growing and transient population, new lines will be drawn for all federal and state legislative districts in time for the 2002 elections. The process is partisan and likely to produce significant changes in the makeup of the next Congress. Info. 202-216-1515, hrc.org ▼

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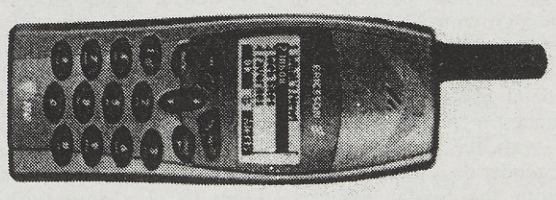
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Victory In Assembly Health Committee!

MGW Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA - The State Assembly Health Committee approved AB 194, written by John Longville (D-San Bernardino), by a ten to four vote. The bill amended state law easing the process post-operative transsexuals must undergo to acquire a new birth certificate reflecting their new sex. Eight Democrats and two Republicans supported AB 194 including Samuel Aanestad (R-Grass Valley) and Keith Richman (R-Granada Hills). Aanestad also supported last year's version of this bill.

Previously, post-operative ttranssexuals were required to petition the court in their county of residence for an order to amend their old birth certificate. This clause was a major issue to transsexuals born in California but living elsewhere, since courts in other states can not order California courts to amend their records. Post-operative transsexuals may now submit their petition in the county of their birth.

Lambda Letters administrator Boyce Hinman said, "It is useless for someone now living in Chicago to go to a Chicago court asking that they order San Francisco County to issue a new birth certificate. The Chicago court lacks jurisdiction in San Francisco."

AB 194 will be voted on by the Assembly on Monday, March 26. Info. 965-6851, LambdaLetters.org ▼

Live In District 1? Vote For Tretheway!

MGW Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA – A special election will be held on Tuesday, April 10 to fill the city council seat vacated by Mayor Heather Fargo. The candidates are Ray Tretheway, Raul Baca, Cathy Hackett, Timothy J. Snipes, and Steven H. Watanabe.

Tretheway, 53, is a Sacramento native. His wife Judy and children Elinor and Philip support his campaign. He is currently employed as executive director of the Sacramento Tree Foundation and holds degrees from American River College and University of California, Santa Cruz. He is a member of Natomas Basin Conservancy, Reclamation District 1000, and United States Forest Service.

Absentee ballot processing will begin on Tuesday, April 3. Ballots will be counted at the Voter Registration and Elections Office (3700 Branch Center Road). Info. 925-1246, 875-6365 ▼

Domestic Partner Benefits - We Are On The Move!

By Boyce Hinman
MGW Guest Writer

I feel great satisfaction about approval of AB 25 by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. The lopsided 8 to 1 vote in favor of the bill particularly gratified me. Lambda Letters members sent over 480 e-mail messages of support to the committee members. I intend to continue providing that kind of support for bills of concern to our community.

AB 25 is the first of several state bills of interest to the LGBT community to be approved by a legislative policy committee this year. We are on the move. We at Lambda Letters will not let the momentum subside. We will move heaven and earth to assure that several bills of importance to the community are passed and signed into law this year.

In 1999 three very important bills to the LGBT community were passed. AB 26 permitted same gender couples to register with the Secretary of States' office. This bill also guaranteed hospital visitation rights to domestic partners. AB 1001 prohibited sexual orientation based discrimination in employment and housing in California. AB 537 banned sexual orientation based discrimination in California's public schools.

However no major LGBT civil rights legislation was passed and signed in 2000. In fact, Governor Davis vetoed four domestic partner bills last year along with one to help transgendered people. Clearly, the Governor wasn't worried about angering his LGBT constituents. We plan this year to mount an immense letter writing campaign to state legislators and to the Governor to let them know that they risk angering a very large group of voters if they continue to oppose full civil rights for our community.

The Lambda Letters Project is California's oldest statewide organization lobbying on behalf of the LGBT community. It helps people write letters to elected officials on these issues and also on HIV/AIDS, issues of concern to people of color, and women's issues. It delivers well over 100,000 such letters each year. Info.965-6851, LambdaLP@aol.com ▼

Whipple Bill Moves Forward

MGW Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA - AB 25, a bill written by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), will move to the Assembly Labor and Employment Committee after passing the Assembly Judiciary Committee with an 8-1 vote. Migden wrote the bill after two dogs owned by lawyers Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel killed Diane Whipple, a lesbian lacrosse coach, while she attempted to enter her San Francisco apartment. Current wrongful-death law recognizes only registered domestic partners and married couples, so Sharon Smith, Whipple's partner of seven years, was denied any legal action. AB 25 will amend the law to allow same sex partners to suit for wrongful death damages.

Knoller and Noel were recently arrested and charged with second degree murder, involuntary manslaughter, and keeping a dog known to attack humans. If convicted, they face up to fifteen years in jail. The couple maintains their innocence claiming that Whipple instigated the attack by reacting fearfully to the dogs. They also accused her of wearing pheromone-based perfume and using steroids. Info. 319-2013 ▼

DMV Assists Transexuals in Catch-22

MGW Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA - On October 14, 2000 the California Department of Motor Vehicles implemented a new program in response to a growing Identity Theft problem. All requests for name and gender changes are now verified against Social Security records. In most instances, a temporary license is issued with the request but if name and gender do not match those on file with the Social Security Administration, a permanent license will be denied. Social Security will not change an individual's name or gender without adequate documentation, usually a driver's license is provided. As a result, new post-operative transsexuals are placed in a Catch 22 since they can not update either record until the other is accurate.

Until a permanent solution can be found, affected individuals are encouraged to contact Sally Walker of the DMV Pre-Licensing Division. DMV officials suggested that transsexuals delay filing DMV Form DL 328 until further notice. Transsexuals with a driver's license reflecting the name and gender of their choice are not affected. Info. 657-4484 ▼

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Pentagon & Military Ban Advocates Change Position

MGW Staff

WASHINGTON D.C. – Military and academic figures that were influential in the debate leading to the current ban on openly GLBT soldiers in the U.S. military recently reversed or softened their position on the matter. Mounting evidence from Servicemembers Legal Defense Fund (SLDN), University of California, Santa Barbara, and countries that allow GLBT service members show that including GLBT service people does not undermine combat performance or affect morale.

Scholars that initially favored the ban included Christopher Dandeker, the head of the Department of War Studies and Professor of Military Sociology at Kings College London. Recently at the Commonwealth Club of California, Dandeker stated that after the British lifted their ban, his opinion changed. However, he remains cautious of how the process would be handled in America.

Laura Miller, an assistant professor of Sociology at University of California, Los Angeles, conducted a survey on the opinions of military personnel on lifting the ban. After reviewing the results and attending a recent conference, she realized that an environment accepting of GLBT people would decrease hostility levels.

SLDN's seventh annual report on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue, Don't Harass" found that death threats, assaults, and verbal abuse continue almost unpunished in the U.S. military. A total of 871 incidents were described. The group urged Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to implement a thirteen-point Anti-Harassment Action Plan published by a Department of Defense Working Group in July 2000. The Pentagon adopted the plan's recommendations after conducting a survey of 75,000 service members. They found that 80% of people in uniform had heard derogatory anti-GLBT remarks during the past year. Of those, 37% said they had witnessed or experienced anti-GLBT harassment. These figures show a 10% decline in incidents from 1999. Rear Admiral Craig Quigley and George W. Bush recently promised to implement the Action Plan in response to SLDN's report, although a deadline has not been set. Info. 805-893-5664, gaymilitary.ucsb.edu, 202-328-3244, sldn.org ▼

Charitable Choice Meets Strong Opposition

MGW Staff

WASHINGTON D.C. – Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU) reported that a House bill that provides government funding to churches for social services would do lasting damage to both religion and government.

Representative J.C. Watts (R-Oklahoma) announced Charitable Choice legislation admit protests that it violates the First Amendment and Constitutional separation of church and state. Supporters, including Senator Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania), would like to delay enforcing the plan for up to a year when they believe it will be more popular. However, John J. DiIulio Jr., head of Bush's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, would like to enact Charitable Choice now.

AU member Barry Lynn believes that it would allow government to regulate religion, underwrite religious discrimination with taxpayer dollars, subsidize controversial religious groups, and lead to competition among churches as they apply for grants.

Since Bush released his faith-based initiative in January, interfaith hostility has already begun. The Anti-Defamation League and Jerry Falwell demanded that Louis Farrakhan's Nation of Islam be denied funding. Right wing Bush supporter Pat Robertson insists that Hare Krishnas, Reverend Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church, and Church of Scientology become ineligible.

"President Bush says he wants to be a uniter, not a divider," said Lynn, "yet this plan sows seeds of religious animosity that divide us along religious lines. This risky scheme should be withdrawn before more damage is done." Info. 202-466-3234, au.org ▼

City Set To Offer Transgender Benefits

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – Beginning in July, city employees may be able to complete sex-change operations, receive hormone therapy, and psychiatric care, but their health insurance will pay the bill. The Board of Supervisors and Mayor Willie Brown are expected to support and approve the plan. The Health Service System board has already passed it. Activists began pushing for such coverage almost five years ago.

The proposed plan limits spending for sex change related therapies to $50,000. It will not cover all of the cost of surgery. Individuals would be responsible for 15-50% of cost depending on their doctor's affiliation.

Currently, at least a dozen city employees identify as transgender. Gender reassignment surgery can cost an individual over $30,000 plus monthly hormone treatments and regular counselling. The Health Service System provides insurance for 37,000 workers employed by the city, the Unified School District, the community college district, and 17,000 retirees.

Info. 415-554-1725 ▼

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Herdt Explores Sexual Utopia

By John Mello
MGW Staff

"The Rise and Diversity of Sexual Cultures since the Cold War: The View from Anthropology" by Gilbert Herdt, March 9, 2001, CSUS.

Dr. Gilbert Herdt is one of the major figures of our generation in the field of anthropology. He has authored and edited many books, the most notable of which are Rituals of Manhood, which includes his paper on "Fetish and Fantasy in Sambia Initiation," and Guardians of the Flutes. Both study male initiation rituals. These are required reading for those of us who (especially now that the human genome has been sequenced) agree that race, gender and sexuality are socially constructed and not biologically determined.

Herdt's vision that has taken shape in the last few years is that sexuality, through the focus on AIDS, has come to replace gender as our social focus. Sexuality has risen to define social difference. Part of the reason is that the locus of power has moved from local and state agencies to international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The AIDS epidemic therefore took sex to the forefront and disrupted gender hierarchies. The dual message of HIV educational efforts of these NGOs was prevention and tolerance of diversity. Talk about sex encouraged ideological individualism by teaching people to think for themselves. Grassroots organizations mobilized the gay community to promote their own causes under the umbrella of AIDS activism. Male authority was undermined in the battle for power over sexuality.

Homosexuality, like communism, was viewed as "un-American" during the Cold War. AIDS campaigns broke the silence, shame, and sexual taboos that had been in place since the 1950's.

Herdt claims that the collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1990, sexual migrations, and the boom of sexual interchange on the Internet also obliterated male sexual hegemony. Clinton's policy on gays in the military was the critical turning point when sexuality came into focus over gender and changed the idea of the masculine warrior and the homosexual as sexual enemy. Diversity has now become the norm in the post-Cold War era.

Human rights have meant the democratization, decolonization, and destigmatization of sexual cultures. Transgendered persons, for example, challenged binary gender identities (i.e. either male or female). Transgender had been strictly defined by medical paradigm, but transgendered persons began challenging medical authorities in 1991. Many transgendered persons are refusing castration and are living as gender-blended, which has changed our view of masculinity. There is even a new NGO in the Bay Area called "Hermaphrodites with Attitude." Thailand, the largest center of sex-change operations, has seventy NGOs and recognizes eight categories of sexuality.

The question of how to gain human rights has become what to do with them. Herdt believes that "We are in great need of informed, knowledgeable, data-driven policy on sexuality in the coming years. It is an area that cries out for intelligence and creativity." He asks "How can we end social injustice? We all have Utopian dreams in the Academy. I believe in cultural relativity: that society can be improved."

Herdt is Director of Human Sexuality Studies; Executive Director of the Institute on Sexuality, Inequality and Health; Professor of Sexuality Studies and Anthropology, San Francisco State University. ▼

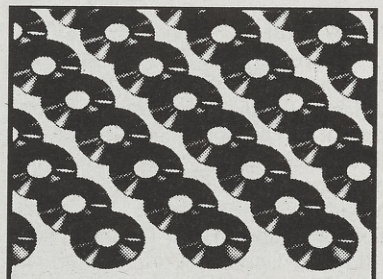
ANNIVERSARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Anniversary!
Tonya Scott and Margo Swift-Scott recently celebrated their six-month wedding anniversary. We wish them many more!!

Happy Anniversary!
On April 13, Susan Simpkin and Karen Adler will joyfully celebrate their 25th anniversary. The two met in 1973 while attending and working at a summer camp near Calaveras Big Trees.

Susan is employed as a middle school counselor and is currently nearing completion of her doctorate in psychology. She is a 1972 graduate of Ponderosa High School in Placerville. Karen has been a self-employed studio potter for more than two decades. She graduated from Davis High School in 1975.

They have resided in Placerville since 1986. On their 20th anniversary, they "made it official" and had a formal ceremony of reaffirmation at Gold Hill Vineyards in Coloma. Almost 150 family members and friends were on hand to witness and participate in this wonderful event. The couple will be honored later this month at a dinner hosted by Karen's parents, Sonnie and Jerry Adler of Davis. ▼



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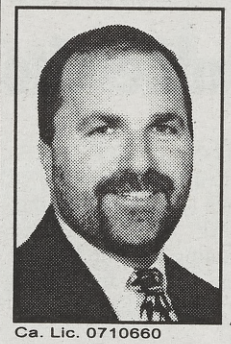

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Research Is Key To Relocating

By Lydia Mendoza, LCSW
MGW Staff

Dear Dr. Love,
My partner and I have been looking at moving and have been unable to do it. We have investigated various areas and each seems appealing, but none seems to grab us and fuel any motivation to leave our current city. It is somewhat maddening to want to move but not be able to follow through. What do you suggest?

First ask yourself if you really want to move. Be honest and real about your answer. If you have tried and found no motivation, perhaps you are happy where you are. Next, sit and discuss all the specifics of what you want in a place. Again be honest and real about your answers. Then, begin to look at places with those qualities. Call the chamber of commerce, tourist information, and look on the internet for information. Visit them during different times of the day and even seasons if possible. Once you've gathered information and visited enough cities, then come together with your partner and discuss what you found. In this way, you will make the most informed, honest decision - and get what you want. ▼

Lydia Mendoza, LCSW is a psychotherapist in private practice and a fellow seeker along the path. She has been practicing for 10 years in Sacramento, California. E-mail her at lmendoza@softcom.net or call her at (916) 558-0254 with your questions.

Barebacking: A Different View of Gay and Bisexual Men

By Dr. Jeffrey Chernin
MGW Staff

First, the good news about HIV infection rates: A survey of 7,650 gay and bisexual men in New York, as reported in the June 28, 1999 New York Times, found that most men who have sex with men are engaging in safer sex. This has led to a major decline in infection rates. According to Dr. Ron Stall, an epidemiologist at UC San Francisco, a second soon to be published survey will reveal similar findings. Younger gay and bisexual men are adhering to safer sex guidelines in high numbers, contrary to fears that unprotected sex is on the rise.

In spite of the good news, a phenomenon known as barebacking has merged.

Barebacking consists of engaging in anal sex without a condom, and possibly pairing HIV-negative bottoms with HIV-positive tops. Some men who have sex with men have bareback parties, with an HIV-positive man becoming involved with several seronegative men.

There has been a strong reaction among queer leaders condemning the practice. Apparently, many are afraid of a backlash against LGBT individuals in general and decreasing interest in AIDS funding and medical care for gay and bisexual men in particular. But focusing on whether barebacking is "right" or "wrong" can divert us from some weighty issues.

First, no one escapes from engaging in some sort of self-destructive behavior. These range from not exercising and eating poorly to smoking, drugging, and drinking alcohol.

Second, self-destructive behavior lies on a continuum. Some self-destructive behavior is worse than others. Regarding sex, every gay/bi man has a line where on one side is safer sex, and on the other is risky sex (partly due to the oral sex debate). Crossing the line generally leads to regret, but gay/bi men can find it difficult to stay on the safe side of the line all the time.

At the other end of the spectrum, there is a group of gay/bi men who have given up on trying to maintain safer sex. Within this group, there are men who purposefully seek out risky sex. And within this group, there are two subgroups.

The first subgroup are risk-takers, such as participating in Xtreme sports and driving dangerously. These people who take chances for the thrill. Their motive for barebacking is clear.

In the second subgroup, reasons for barebacking are more complex. Some gay/bi men have been isolated or depressed for a long time and feel that life is not worth living. Others are tired of people dying and of limiting themselves sexually. Yet others are fatalistic that they are going to become HIV-positive. They have risky sex simply out of resignation. Drugs and alcohol can alter thinking, making decisions regarding safer sex more difficult.

What should we do about it, both individually and as a community? If you know someone who is barebacking, let him know that you are concerned. Condemnation will do little to change their behavior. In fact, it can cause further righteousness (it's my body, and I can do what I want) or greater feelings of self-loathing. Both can lead to further self-destruction. Expressing concern can challenge beliefs that would cause people to bareback in the first place.

Help them understand what they are doing to themselves by holding up a mirror. In other words, if someone tells you he is barebacking, communicate back to him by labeling it as sexual Russian Roulette.

Ironically, if we approach this issue in a new way, the barebacking phenomenon can help us grow individually and as a community. As difficult as it may be to believe, developing a better understanding of barebacking can help us better understand ourselves. For example, how you react to barebacking may say more about you than about barebackers. If you assume that straight people will stop caring about LGBT individuals because of the actions of a few it could stem from your own internalized homophobia. Consider whether you want visible drag queens in parades. Are you afraid that media will focus on them and the general public will think that we are all drag queens?

Also, if you condemn gay/bi men that bareback, remember that self-destructive behavior is on a continuum. In other words, do you have self-destructive behavior that you don't want to look at? Focusing on other peoples, behavior can be a way of avoiding your own.

Furthermore, judging barebackers may mean that you are afraid of being judged. In fact, moral outrage at self-destructive behavior can mask individual issues. Thus, you can use your reactions to barebacking for introspection.

Finally, if you are a barebacker, I would encourage you to take some time to think about why you are doing what you do. I'm not referring to defending your actions, but rather taking a good look at why you put yourself or others in harm's way. ▼

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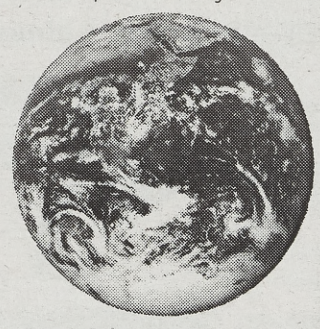

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OUT IN THE STARS

Aries Face That Not-So-Popular Feeling

By Matthew Abergel
MGW Staff

Aries

Though you raging Rams and Ramettes may be accustomed to being the life of the party, this month you're not much more popular than Attila the Hun to the Romans after he sacked their empire. Don't let it upset your pretty little - or not-so-little - ego. Instead, concentrate on completing tangible, practical projects like contributing to your IRA, filing your taxes, and washing those hard-to-reach spots that you'd previously chosen to ignore.

Taurus

As the month unfolds, you feel an enormous weight lifting off your shoulders while a sense of relief descends on you like El Nino after a seven-year drought. Though insecurity may continue to pester you for several months, at least you can face the challenge of a new day instead of hiding in the bathtub with a big box of cookies and a tall glass of milk or other comforting beverage. Make this upcoming birthday an event to remember!

Gemini

As if you Geminis didn't have enough trouble deciding which of your multiple personalities to express at any given moment, all this month you flip-flop between the person you've always been and the person you're growing into. Old ways want to hold you back while a new and improved formula beckons you like the latest brand of miracle moisturizer. What should you do? Oh please, darling, don't expect easy answers to tough questions!

Cancer

Feeling disillusioned? Have your formerly lofty ideals shattered like a windshield under the weight of an abnormally large bird turd? Have you sped up on the road to becoming a crabby curmudgeon or a bitter old dowager? If so, Dr. Matt won't tell you to look on the bright side, because, well, Prozac works better. But I will tell you that your faith is being tested, and that you now have the challenge - the opportunity, if you will - of leaving your worries and pessimism behind and surrendering to a force greater than all of us. With luck, that force won't be a box of See's chocolate Easter eggs.

Leo

Expect big changes, as your world's rocked more vigorously than a Grateful Dead reunion concert--with possibly even greater psychedelic aftermath. A career change looks imminent, possibly in the form of a promotion, more likely in the form of wanting to jump ship and test new waters. But amidst this wild trip (and baby, this is only the beginning), it's important to stay loyal to the old friends and values that have helped you come so far.

Virgo

Sally Bowles may have had problems, but she dispensed some good advice: "What good is sitting alone in your room - come hear the music play!" The time is ripe to unleash your potential—or it may run away without you. Sure, it probably feels as though the Hot Shots in Charge block your way. And then, too, it's so much easier to watch cynical "Seinfeld" reruns than tackle a dream. But you'll never know if you don't try, and now's the time to try, since you're on the verge of a big break, and I'm not talking about chipping your Wedgwood teapot.

Libra

You know that song, "Do you know where you're goin' to; do you like the things that life is showin' you… do you know?" Well, do you?! As Saturn arrives in your House of Philosophy like a dreaded mother-in-law with a year's supply of denture glue, you begin to question why you're here, what it means, and whether you're trapped forever in the same ol' same ol'. So don't be surprised if you wake up one day this month with the sudden urge to pack your overnight bag and hit the open road. Just remember, bus stops rarely live up to their gritty-glamorous image portrayed by Marilyn Monroe in Bus Stop.

Scorpio

A significant relationship - or perhaps several - jumps to the next level. If you recently met a handsome stranger, he/she won't be so strange when this month is done. And if you've been dating awhile, now it gets serious, with the nerve-racking result of forcing you to fish or cut bait. And if it's already serious, now you confront pesky details like whose family you spend Thanksgiving with and which of you pays the cleaning boy. No, relationships are never easy, but if you seize this chance to move to the next stage, you may eventually score a three-karat rock and fancy set of new china.

Sagittarius

As a health matter finds resolution, you find yourself with less anxiety and more energy. Yippee! But while your body is now more willing to compromise, loved ones are not. Like the Big Bad Wolf at the doors of the three little pigs, you come up against stubbornness and rigidity. Of course, as a big-mouth Saj (well, sorry, but it's true!), you'll be tempted to huff and puff and blow their houses down. But there's a better way: Simply ask them to open the door and have a nice long chat about how you can meet their needs while they meet yours.

Capricorn

"You know, you're not a kid anymore! Why don't you grow up and act like an adult?" Sound familiar? It sure will this month, as nit-picky Saturn invades your House of Work and Work Harder. But before you roll up your sleeves and drive yourself like a plowhorse in Scarlet O'Hara's cotton fields, it's time to question what, exactly, you are working for. And if you believe you're worth only as much as your latest accomplishment, you may need a new and improved sense of self-worth. I hear they're going cheap on eBay.

Aquarius

Inhibited? You—the original March to the Beat of My Own Conga Drum kid? Yes, it happens occasionally, and this April marks one of those occasions. Focused on your flaws, concerned something's wrong with you, desperately craving a nose job, you hold back from expressing your unique spirit and creativity, and thus, for example, fail at impressing a bigwig client or exercising more sexual appeal than Dr. Laura on a bad hair day (hell, even on a good hair day). So without becoming a megalomaniac, find your cajones, your Girl Power, or whatever it takes to shout, "I'm here, I'm queer, let's play ball!"

Pisces

Whoa up, you big Fish, it's time to slowww down! The stars tell me you've been here, there, and everywhere, making millions or flirting with millions. But as April's flowers bloom, you'll want to send down some roots to slake your thirst for stability, community, and a comfy chair to sit your tired rump roast down awhile. If you've considered therapy (who hasn't?), start now. But actually any centering, grounding activity ought to do the trick. Next month you can go back to your old tricks—and they'll be glad you did.

By Matthew "Dr. Matt" Abergel, author of Gay Stars: The Ultimate Gay Guys' Guide to Astrology.

WIRES

Teacher Victim Of Web Site Hate

SAN RAMON, CA – An unidentified student created a web site allowing students to write critical comments of the peers and teachers. Almost 800 people read eighth grade student Andrew Grant's homophobic remarks regarding his teacher. Grant claimed that since his teacher discouraged anti-GLBT remarks then he should "move to San Francisco and…feel free to jump off the Golden Gate." Rainbow Government staff is upset that homophobia is so prevalent in such young adults, however they joined with GLSEN and Rainbow Community Center to confront the student, school district, and involved parents. Info. RainbowGov@worldnet.att.net ▼

Intersex Society To Join Festival

ANN ARBOR, MI - On Thursday March 15 Porter Gale and Laleh Soomekh will present their short documentary film XX, XY at the City Film Festival. The film will begin at 9:30pm. The film will discuss the reactions of intersex activists Kristi Bruce and Howard Devore to forced "normalization," secrecy, and shame. Intersex Society of North America staff will be present to answer questions and provide educational materials. Info. 734-668-8397, aafilmfest.org/festival.html ▼

Association's Reunion Announced

SAN DIEGO, CA –Panan Association, USA will hold its Fiesta Celebration and Reunion on Saturday, March 17. A dinner dance will be held at the Miramar Marine Corps Air Station at 6pm and a picnic on Sunday, March 18 at Mission Bay Park beginning at 10am. Panan Association, USA is an organization of past and present residents of Panan in Botolan, Zambales, Philippines. The group hopes to improve the lives of people still living in the Philippines. In 2000, they raised funds for a school, musical instruments, bookshelves, tables, and meals for students. Info. 858-484-9214, Panan@San.rr.com ▼

Writing Doctor Seeks Manuscripts

LOS ALTOS, CA - The Writing Doctor is soliciting entries for the first annual Writing Doctor Discovery Award. From among the submissions, they will select one book-length manuscript to edit and develop. They will also provide review notes that will increase the manuscript's possibilities of publication. Although they can not guarantee publication, past winners have included The Kid's How To Do (Almost) Everything Guide and How To Be President of the U.S.A. Entries are due by Saturday, March 31. Info. 650-941-6229, WritingDoctor.com ▼

ILGA Plans First Summit

OAKLAND, CA - Belgium based International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) will hold the first ever Global Gay Summit. The conference will begin Sunday, August 26 with workshops on religion and close Sunday, September 2 with a Mardi Gras street party. With close to 500 chapters in over eighty countries, event organizers hope to allow attendees a chance to network, develop coalitions, and learn from various cultures. Volunteers are needed in all areas. Info. 510-663-3980, eastbayprice@aol.com ▼

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Labrador Retreiver Rescue, 209-951-3697, cc-labrescue.org

Log Cabin Republicans, 491-4974, saclogcabin.org

Rainbow Bridge Speakers, Paula, 658-0892

Sac. Arts & Games Association, 451-8663

Sac. Area Women's Community Network, 451-8034, sacwn.org

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La Residence Country Inn, 4066 St. Helena Hwy,, Napa Valley; David & Craig, 707-253-0337

Information

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Mortgage

River Cities Mortgage, Ruth Mitchell, 8300 Fair Oaks Blvd., Ste. 403, Carmichael, 944-5810

Music

Esoteric Records, 3413 El Camino Ave., 488-8956

Nursery

Lotus Valley Nursery/Garden, 5606 Peterson Lane, Lotus, 626-7001

Optometrists

Dr. Cameron Yee, 6407 Riverside Blvd., 395-0673

Painting

Sandman Painting & Drywall, 925-4838

Pet Care/Rescue

Abel Pet Clinic, Dr. Kelly A. Byam, 9098 Laguna Main St. Ste. 1, 684-6854

Animal Housecall, Dr. Nancy Weagly, 456-0967

Animal Place, 3448 Laguna Creek Trail, Vacaville, 707-449-4814

Faux Paw Kennels, Adopt A Pet, 9204 Florin Rd., 988-6225, 387-8811

Fur People Pet Sitting, 457-1655

Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary, 556-1155

Home & Critter Sitter, 3104 O St., 447-0735

Kennel Room: Small Dog & Cat Grooming, 3104 Fulton Ave., 482-4542

Labrador Retreiver Rescue, 209-951-3697, cc-labrescue.org

Waggin Tails K9 Waste Removal, 987-8587

Photography

Cain's Foto Images, Katie Tavares, 952-7408

Midtown Photo, 2127 J St., 446-7434

Photography By Larry, 645-8447; 800-916-FOTO

Real Estate

Aladdin Realty, Karen Ayala, 4120 Douglas Blvd. Ste. 306-323, Granite Bay, 791-0715

Bill McJunkins, Realtor, Whisler Land Co., 510-812-8089

Brian McMartin, Realtor, Whisler Land Co., 451-5767

Charon Jennor, Cook Realty, 4305 Freeport Blvd, 763-1781

Doug Gonzales, Realtor, Whisler Land Co., 837-7394

Judy Randall, Realtor, Whisler Land Co., 453-0313

Mark Whisler, Broker, Whisler Land Co., 446-6666

Pfingst Realty, 9978 Folsom Blvd., 362-1166

Rennie Gamez, Realtor, Whisler Land Co., 802-2845

Recreational Vehicles

Recreation USA, 2020 Taylor Rd., Rsvl., 783-3178

Remodeling

Feather Your Nest Home Repair, Gayle Rendleman, 652-4204

Cherry Home Improvement, 933-0506

Restaurants

City Treasure, 1730 L St., 447-7380

Dos Coyotes Border Cafe, 1735 Arden Way, 927-0377

The Greek Village Inn, 65 University Ave., 922-6334

Sacramento Brew Pub, Town & Country Village, 485-4677.

Sacramento Info

MGW: mgwnews.com

Sac. Police Dept.: sacpd.org

Sac. Maps: citymaps.sacto.org

Sacramento.com

Shelters

WIND Center For Homeless Teens, Lynette Lyons, 300 Ahern St., 443-1386

Stereo Repair

Ray's Auto Stereo & Alarms, 1925 F St., 447-9753

Therapists

Bruce Gunn, MFCC#M19480, 418 Alhambra Blvd., 443-7171

Deborah Otten, MFT# Mv023109, 820 24th St., 443-6253

Sandra Warne, MFCC#30585, 650 Howe Ave #730, 568-1025

Thrift Store

MCC Good Samaritan Store, 3230 Broadway, 454-5019

Sutter Hospice/Roseville, 2120 Harding Blvd., 783-5509

Travel

Sports Leisure Travel, 9527 Folsom Blvd., 361-2051

Tree Service

Complete Tree Service, St. Lic. #723033, 2425 36th St., 456-2209

VCR Repair

Ray's Auto Stereo & Alarms, 1925 F St., 447-9753

Veterinarians

Abel Pet Clinic, 9098 Laguna Main St Ste. 1, 684-6854

Animal Housecall, Dr. Nancy Weagly, 456-0967

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CALENDAR

April

1 SUNDAY

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

ALL OUR FAMILIES COALITION, thank you tea party, 2pm, call for location, 415-681-1960

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, CA Assn. of Professional Music Teachers, 3pm, 216 O St., 264-5423

FEMALE TO MALE SAC., 8pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

GAY & LESBIAN SIERRANS, Redbud Trail & Cache Creek hike, 454-9845, 421-6209

SAC. BAROQUE ENSEMBLE, Jill Muttera, Trinity Lutheran Church, 1500 27th St., 452-4380

SAC. METROPOLITIAN ARTS COMMISSION, 100 poems on Sac. competition opens, 424-8536

SAC. VALLEY LEATHERMEN PANCAKE BREAKFAST, 10am, Faces, 2000 K St., 338-3760

2 MONDAY

CONTRA COSTA PUBLIC HEALTH FREE HIV TESTS, 6pm, Rainbow Community Center, 2118 Willow Pass Rd., Suite 500, Concord, 800-479-9664

FEMALE TO MALE SAC., speaker Jameson Green, 8pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L. St., 443-7534, garyj@gay.com

FRONTRUNNERS & FRONTWALKERS FUN RUN, 6:30pm, McKinley Park, 974-8199

HIV POSITIVE GAY MEN & THEIR FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP, 7pm, Rainbow Center, 2118 Willow Pass Rd., Suite 500, Concord, 925-609-7546

MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP, 6pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP, 6pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

3 TUESDAY

PAY EQUITY DAY

SAC. RECORDER SOCIETY, 6:30pm, Goethe Hall, 1701 L St., 451-7614

SF MOMA FREE FORD TUESDAYS, 9:30am, Lincoln Park, 100 34th Ave. SF, 415-750-3614

SIERRA CHAPTER OF AMER. ORGAN SOCIETY, organist Donna Parker, 2pm, Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, 7997 California St., FO, 682-9699

SOLANO-YOLO GAY MEN'S ALLIANCE, 7:30pm, 1325 Travis Blvd., Ste. G, Fairfield, 707-449-0847

WOMEN OUT AFTER 30 SUPPORT GROUP, 7pm, 1020 W. Capitol Ave., 452-3909

4 WEDNESDAY

ASIAN ART MUSEUM FREE DAY, 9:30am, Golden Gate Park, SF, 415-379-8801

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, art history course: Through the Artists Eyes - "What Makes This Art?," 10:30am, 216 O St., 264-5423

CSUS QUEER STRAIGHT ALLIANCE, 1:30pm, University Union Miwok Rm., csusqsa@yahoo.com

DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS VOCALIZING AFFIRMATIVELY REHEARSAL, 7pm, United Methodist Church, 1620 Anderson Rd., Davis, c_kitinoja@yahoo.com

FRONTRUNNERS & FRONTWALKERS FUN RUN, 6:30pm, McKinley Park, 974-8199

LOTUS VALLEY NURSERY & GARDENS SPRING SALE, thru Apr. 8, 9am, 5605 Petersen Ln., 530-626-7021

SF NOW MEETING, 7pm, 3543 18th St. #27, SF, canow.org

TWLIGHT PLAYERS CLUB GAME, 5:15pm, Champions Golf Links, 8915 Gerber Rd., 564-6559

WEDNESDAY EVENING READING GROUP, 7pm, Open Book, 910 21st St., 498-1004

WOMEN CONNECTING SUPPORT GROUP, call for location, 723-7849

5 THURSDAY

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, Saturday Club, 7pm, 216 O St., 264-5423

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, Tea in Mr. McGregor's Garden, 1pm, 216 O St., 264-5423

EMPLOYMENT LAW CLINIC, 6pm, 515 12th St., 551-2150

DYKES OUT TOGETHER, pinochle night, call for location, 971-9337

RUSSIAN RIVER RESORT KARAOKE, 9pm, 16390 4th St., Guerneville, 800-4-1-RESORT

VOICE OF THE VALLEY A CAPELLA CHOIR, 7pm, Natomas Park Elementary School, 4700 Crest, Natomas, 487-7000

YOLO COUNTY WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT PLANNING MEETING, 6pm, Memorial Union Fielder Rm., University of CA, Davis, pawhelen@ucdavis.edu

6 FRIDAY

BAY AREA CAREER WOMEN WINE TASTING, 6:30pm, Shelley's, Rohnert Park, 707-586-8802

CA POPPY PROJECT, 98th anniversary of state flower, 209-544-6054

CODEPENDENTS SUPPORT GROUP, 7:30pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

FEMINIST MAJORITY FOUNDATION ROCK FOR CHOICE CONCERT, Melissa Ethridge, Paula Cole, The Bangles, Mia Doi Todd, Sarah McLachlan, Hollywood Palladium, LA, 213-480-3232

FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE, 7:30pm, Central United Methodist Church Social Hall, 5265 H St., 987-6614

IN THE LIFE, Building Safe Havens: Tapping Into Supportive Resources, 11pm, KVIE Channel 6, 212-255-6012, inthelifetv.org

LAKE TAHOE PIONEERING IN FILM FESTIVAL, thru Apr. 8, South Shore, location varies, 800-AT-TAHOE

LAMBDA CENTER YOUTH GROUP, 7pm, 1927 L St., 442-0185

MICHAEL HIMOVITZ GALLERY FOUNDATION BENEFIT DINNER, 1616 Del Paso Blvd., 929-7896

R.E.A.L. YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP, 6pm, Breaking Barriers, 1722 J St., Suite 321, 447-2437

RUSSIAN RIVER RESORT KARAOKE, 9pm, 16390 4th St., Guerneville, 800-4-1-RESORT

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY, speaker Doug Kraft, 7pm, 2425 Sierra Blvd., 448-9373

WOMEN'S SEXUALITY CENTER, lesbian tantra weekend, thru Apr. 8, call for location, 805-563-1071

7 SATURDAY

ANIMAL PLACE OPEN HOUSE, 10am, 3448 Laguna Creek Trail, Vacaville, 707-449-4814, AnimalPlace.org

CAPITAL CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE, 2pm, 3330 McKinley Blvd., 530-637-9000

DEL ORO CAREGIVER RESOURCE CENTER, "Dementia: Prospecting for Answers" workshop, 8am, Placerville Senior Center, 937 Spring St., Placerville, 800-635-0220

EL DORADO BRASS BAND & FOX HOLLOW CROQUET CLUB, Governor's mansion open house, 10am, 1526 H St., 323-3047

FRONTRUNNERS & FRONTWALKERS FUN RUN, 9am, Guy West Bridge at CSUS, 974-8199

INCEST SURVIVORS SPEAKERS' BUREAU OF YOLO COUNTY & CA PROTECTIVE PARENTS ASSN., annual Northern CA child sexual abuse awareness conference, 9:30am, Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St., Davis, 800-441-7886

LAMBDA CAFE, 8pm, 1927 L St., 442-0185

LAMBDA CENTER HIV TESTING, 8pm, 1927 L St., 442-0185

NATL. TARTAN DAY, 1pm, Downtown Mall, 557-0764

RUSSIAN RIVER RESORT COMEDY NIGHT, Aundre "the Wonderwoman," 9pm, 16390 4th St., Guerneville, 800-4-1-RESORT

8 SUNDAY

PASSOVER

CAPITAL CITY AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE, 10am, 3330 McKinley Blvd., 530-637-9000

DUVAL SPECK, 4pm, Cafe Roma, 223 Third St., Davis, 530-756-8260

EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER, Home Sweet Habitat, 1:30pm, 6700 Tarshes Dr., Carm., 489-4918

GAY FATHERS OF SAC. SUPPORT GROUP, 6 :30pm, Sac. AIDS Foundation, 1320 21st St., 484-5636

INDIEGRRL SHOWCASE, Duval Speck, Holly Figueroa, Erika Luckett, & Allette Brooks, 4pm, Cafe Roma, 223 Third St., Davis, 530-756-8260

LGBT FAMILY & FRIENDS SUPPORT GROUP, 7pm, Trinity United Methodist Church, 285 E. Fifth St., Chico, 530-872-3105

OLD SAC. SPRING COLLECTOR'S FAIR, 7am, 443-6223

9 MONDAY

FRONTRUNNERS & FRONTWALKERS FUN RUN, 6:30pm, McKinley Park, 974-8199

HIV POSITIVE GAY MEN & THEIR FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP, 7pm, Rainbow Center, 2118 Willow Pass Rd., Suite 500, Concord, 925-609-7546

LAMBDA PLAYERS AUDITIONS, females and males for "Beautiful Thing," 7pm, Sierra 2 Green Rm., 2791 24th St., 366-3904

MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP, 6pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP, 6pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

SECOND MONDAYS AT CENTRAL, open mike poetry reading, 12pm, Central Library West Meeting Room, 828 I St., 264-2920

10 TUESDAY

SAC. DISTRICT 1 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL ELECTION, MGW endorses Ray Tretheway, call for polling places, 875-6465

DAVIS/SAC. WOMEN'S SONG CIRCLE, 7pm, location to be announced, joplinlc@aol.com, 530-756-2541

DISTRICT 1 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR VACANT CITY COUNCIL SEAT, CALL FOR POLLING PLACES, 875-6365

EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER, Bannister Park Hike, 8am, 6700 Tarshes Dr., Carm., 489-4918

LAMBDA PLAYERS AUDITIONS, females and males for "Beautiful Thing," 7pm, Sierra 2 Rm. 19, 2791 24th St., 366-3904

LAVENDER LIBRARY, Reclaiming Transender Histroy & Traditions, 7pm, 1414 21st St., 492-0558

SF MOMA FREE FORD TUESDAYS, 9:30am, Lincoln Park, 100 34th Ave. SF, 415-750-3614

SOLANO-YOLO GAY MEN'S ALLIANCE, 7:30pm, 1325 Travis Blvd., Ste. G, Fairfield, 707-449-0847

WOMEN OUT AFTER 30 SUPPORT GROUP, 7pm, 1020 W. Capitol Ave., 452-3909

11 WEDNESDAY

BRAZIL'S LANDLESS WORKERS MOVEMENT, Maria Gorette De Sousa & Luis Antonio Pasquetty speaking, La Pena, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-9397

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, CA's First Avant-Garde, 1875-1915 lecture, 10:30am, 216 O St., 264-5423

CSUS QUEER STRAIGHT ALLIANCE, 1:30pm, University Union Miwok Rm., csusqsa@yahoo.com

DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS VOCALIZING AFFIRMATIVELY REHEARSAL, 7pm, United Methodist Church, 1620 Anderson Rd., Davis, c_kitinoja@yahoo.com

FRONTRUNNERS & FRONTWALKERS FUN RUN, 6:30pm, McKinley Park, 974-8199

FRONTRUNNERS & FRONTWALKERS BUSINESS/SOCIAL MEETING, 8pm, Shangai Garden, H St. & Alhambra, 974-8199

SAC. EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING AGENCY (SETA) MEETING, 10am, 1217 Del Paso Blvd., 263-3857

WEDNESDAY EVENING READING GROUP, 7pm, Open Book, 910 21st St., 498-1004

WOMEN CONNECTING SUPPORT GROUP, call for location, 723-7849

TWLIGHT PLAYERS CLUB GAME, 5:15pm, Champions Golf Links, 8915 Gerber Rd., 564-6559

12 THURSDAY

CAMP SISTER SPIRIT FUNDRAISER, thru Apr. 15, Ovett, MS, www.RainbowPrideRV.net/css

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, Call To Artists, 5:30pm, 216 O St., 264-5423

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, Chihuly Baskets tour, 6pm, 216 O St., 264-5423

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, film "River of Glass," 216 O St., 264-5423

EMPLOYMENT LAW CLINIC, 6pm, 515 12th St., 551-2150

INTL. GAY & LESBIAN RODEO ASSN., Phoenix, AZ, thru Jan. 14, www.igra.com

RUSSIAN RIVER RESORT KARAOKE, 9pm, 16390 4th St., Guerneville, 800-4-1-RESORT

SAC. VALLEY LEATHERMEN, 7pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

VOICE OF THE VALLEY A CAPELLA CHOIR, 7pm, Natomas Park Elementary School, 4700 Crest, Natomas, 487-7000

YOLO COUNTY WOMEN TAKE BACK THE NIGHT PLANNING MEETING, 6pm, Memorial Union Fielder Rm., University of CA, Davis, pawhelen@ucdavis.edu

13 FRIDAY

CODEPENDENTS SUPPORT GROUP, 7:30pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

FRIDAY NIGHT DANCE, 7:30pm, Central United Methodist Church Social Hall, 5265 H St., 987-6614

LAMBDA CENTER YOUTH GROUP, 7:30pm, 1927 L St., 442-0185

R.E.A.L. YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP, 6pm, Breaking Barriers, 1722 J St., Suite 321, 447-2437

RUSSIAN RIVER RESORT KARAOKE, 9pm, 16390 4th St., Guerneville, 800-4-1-RESORT

14 SATURDAY

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, artblast, 12pm, 216 O St., 264-5423

EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER, Plant Walk, 1:30pm, 6700 Tarshes Dr., Carm., 489-4918

FRONTRUNNERS & FRONTWALKERS FUN RUN, 9am, Guy West Bridge at CSUS, 974-8199

GAY & LESBIAN SIERRANS, Pt. Reyes campout, 421-6209

MICHAEL HIMOVITZ GALLERY RECEPTION, "The World From A Gay Perspective" reception, 6pm, 1616 Del Paso Blvd., 929-7896

LAMBDA CAFE, 8pm, 1927 L St., 442-0185

RUSSIAN RIVER RESORT COMEDY NIGHT, Danny Williams, 9pm, 16390 4th St., Guerneville, 800-4-1-RESORT

15 SUNDAY

EASTER DAY

EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER, Birdwatching Stroll, 1:30pm, 6700 Tarshes Dr., Carm., 489-4918

LGBT SUPPORT GROUP, 7pm, Trinity United Methodist Church, 285 E. Fifth St., Chico, 530-872-3105

PERFORMING ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY EASTER BRUNCH, 11:30am, 11435 Simmerhorn Rd., Galt, 209-745-2606

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SUNRISE SERVICE, 6:30am, McKinley Rose Garden, 601 Alhambra Blvd., 452-5016

16 MONDAY

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH EASTER SERVICE, 10:30am, 5265 H St., 452-5016

CONTRA COSTA PUBLIC HEALTH FREE HIV TESTS, 6pm, Rainbow Community Center, 2118 Willow Pass Rd., Suite 500, Concord, 800-479-9664

FRONTRUNNERS & FRONTWALKERS FUN RUN, 6:30pm, McKinley Park, 974-8199

HIV POSITIVE GAY MEN & THEIR FAMILIES SUPPORT GROUP, 7pm, Rainbow Center, 2118 Willow Pass Rd., Suite 500, Concord, 925-609-7546

MEN'S COMING OUT GROUP, 6pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP, 6pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

17 TUESDAY

GAY & LESBIAN SIERRANS MEETING, 6:30pm, location to be announced, 421-6209

SIERRA STAMPEDE MEETING, 6:30pm, Lambda Center, 1927 L St., 442-0185

SOLANO-YOLO GAY MEN'S ALLIANCE, 7:30pm, 1325 Travis Blvd., Ste. G, Fairfield, 707-449-0847

WOMEN OUT AFTER 30 SUPPORT GROUP, 7pm, 1020 W. Capitol Ave., 452-3909

18 WEDNESDAY

AMER. LEADERSHIP FORUM EXEMPLARY LEADER AWARD DINNER, 6pm, Radisson Hotel Ballroom,500 Leisure Ln., 455-1044

AUTHOR MARIANNE WILLIAMSON, 7pm, Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., 925-439-2037

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, bookmaking workshop, 2pm, 216 O St., 264-5423

CSUS QUEER STRAIGHT ALLIANCE, 1:30pm, University Union Miwok Rm., csusqsa@yahoo.com

DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS VOCALIZING AFFIRMATIVELY REHEARSAL, 7pm, United Methodist Church, 1620 Anderson Rd., Davis, c_kitinoja@yahoo.com

DYKES OUT TOGETHER, literary ice cream social, 6:30pm, call for location, 451-7191

ETERNAL PRODUCTIONS, Marianne Williamson,7pm, Crest Theatre, 1013 K St., 925-439-2037

FRONTRUNNERS & FRONTWALKERS FUN RUN, 6:30pm, McKinley Park, 974-8199

LAMBDA CENTER BOARD MEETING, 6pm, 1927 L St., 442-0185

WEDNESDAY EVENING READING GROUP, 7pm, Open Book, 910 21st St., 498-1004

WOMEN CONNECTING SUPPORT GROUP, call for location, 723-7849

UC DAVIS WRRC, speaker Michele Zachmeim, 7:30pm, North Hall, 530-752-0871

TWLIGHT PLAYERS CLUB GAME, 5:15pm, Champions Golf Links, 8915 Gerber Rd., 564-6559

19 THURSDAY

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, Third Thursday Jazz, 5:30pm, 216 O St., 264-5423

CROCKER ART MUSEUM, Spotlight Tour: Contemporary Art, 6:30pm, 216 O St., 264-5423

DYKES OUT TOGETHER, pinochle night, 6:30pm, call for location, 971-9337

EMPLOYMENT LAW CLINIC, 6pm, 515 12th St., 551-2150

NOW MEETING, location to be announced, sacnow.org

PFLAG MEETING, 7:30pm, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 St.

Art Galleries

THE ART FOUNDRY GALLERY; Ronnie Joshnson, thru Apr. 6; Mel Smothers, Fernando Reyes, & Vicki Asp, thru Apr. 7; 1021 R St., 444-2787

BERKELEY ART MUSEUM; Face Of Buddha: Sculpture From India, China, Japan, And Southeast Asia, thru 2003; 2625 Durant Ave., 510-642-1208

CALIFORNIA PALACE OF THE LEGION OF HONOR; Toulouse-Lautrec and the Spirit of Montmarte: Cabarets, Humor, and the Avant Garde 1875-1905, thru May 27;Lincoln Park, SF, 415-750-3620

CHROMA GALLERY; Spring Rainbows, thru Apr. 8; What's Now!, Apr. 14-May 6; 10030 Fair Oaks Blvd., 966-6020

COLUMBIA PARK BOYS & GIRLS CLUB; Girls In The Hall, May 10-June 10; 450 Guerrero St., SF, 415-255-7162

CROCKER ART MUSEUM; Humble Subjects: 19th Century Genre Painting, thru May 15; American Revolutions: The Other Side of Modern, 1900-1945, thru Apr. 29; American Ceramics, thru Aug. 5; Chihuly Baskets, thru June 3; Flat Works by Round Artists: Prints and Drawings by Contemporary Ceramists and Sculptors, thru June 3; Optimum Rhythym: Recent Paintings by Mark Emerson, May 1-Aug. 5; Splendide Californie: French Artists' Impresions of the Golden State, 1786-1900, June 22-Aug. 12; Judith Lowry Paintings, Aug. 10-Oct. 12; Almost Warm & Fuzzy: Childhood and Contemporary Art, Aug. 31-Nov. 4; Victorian Christmas, 216 O St., 264-5423

CSUS; Time of Remembrance: The Japanese American Experience in California History, thru June 10; 6000 J St., 278-7979, www.csus.edu

DARKROOM GALLERY; Donna Fay Allen, Apr. 2-May 16; 708 57th St., 454-4906

DAVID ADEN GALLERY; Brian: A Nine-Year Photographic Diary, thru Apr. 13; 350 Sunset Ave., Venice Beach, 310-396-2949

DOIRON GALLERY; Kiny McCarrick & Rhett, thru Apr. 11; Daphne Stammer, Apr. 13-May 9; Pat Flackhart, Alice Freiderichs, & Merriel Taylor, May 11-June 6; 1625 Del Paso Blvd., 564-4433

EXPLORATORIUM; Behind the Screen: Making Motion Pictures and Television, thru May 13; 3601 Lyon St., SF, 415-563-7337

GILCHRIST GALLERY; Sungsoo Kim, Apr. 1-May 31; 2527 J St., 498-1091

JAY JAY; Ellen Van Fleet, Apr. 14-May 26; 2906 Franklin Blvd., 442-5030

JOHN NATSOULAS GALLERY; Roy DeForest & Sayako Dairiki, thru Apr. 1; Deborah Hamon, Apr. 3-29; Bill Abright, Esther Shimazu & Johnnette Rowley, Apr. 1-29; Thirty Ceramic Sculptors, May 4 - June 3; Roland Peterson, June 7-July 29; 521 First St., Davis, 530-756-3938

M.H. DE YOUNG MEMORIAL MUSEUM; Prints in Bloom, thru May 13; Visual Art of John Cage: To Sober and Quiet the Mind, thru April 15; Golden Gate Park, 75 Tea Garden Dr., SF, 415-750-3614

MICHAEL HIMOVITZ GALLERY; The World From A Gay Perspective, Apr. 6-May 31; 1616 Del Paso Blvd., 929-7896

MOCA MUSEUM; Stan Douglas, thru Apr. 1; Superflat, thru May 27; The Architecture of R.M. Schindler, thru June 3; Public Offerings, Apr. 1-July 29; James Welling: Photographs 1974-1999, May 6-Aug. 26; David Hockney Photoworks Retrospective, July 22-Oct. 21; A Room Of Their Own, thru Dec. 1; Douglas Gordon, Sept. 16-Jan. 13; Matta in America: Paintings and Drawings of the 1940s, Oct. 7-Jan. 6; 250 South Grand Ave., LA, 213-621-2766

PASTEL SOCIETY OF THE WEST COAST; Pastels U.S.A. 2001, Apr. 3-May 18; Tower Theater Gallery, 417 Vernon St., Rsvl., 786-7827

SACRAMENTO FINE ARTS CENTER; Viewpoints: W.A.S.H.! Annual Membership Exhibition, thru Apr. 14; Valley Sculpture Artists Annual Judged Members Show, Apr. 17-29; 5330-B Gibbons Drive, 917-3713, sfac@cwnet.com

SAN FRANCISCO MOMA; The Visual Art of John Cage: To Sober and Quiet the Mind, Apr. 15; Prints in Bloom, May 13; Sol LeWitt: A Retrospective, thru May 21; Rachael Neubauer & Kathryn Van Dyke, thru June 12; Native to the Land: Photography and the North American Indian, 1870-1930, thru June 12; 010101: Art In Technological Times, thru July 8; After the War: European Artists' Books, 1945-1955, thru July 8; Points of Departure: Connecting with Contemporary Art, thru Sept. 16; Revelatory Landscapes, May 5-Oct. 14 151 Third St., SF, 415-357-4000

SECOND SATURDAY ART WALKS; Most galleries, April 14; 929-7896

SOLOMON DUBNICK GALLERY; Group Show, April 5-May 5; 2131 Nothrop Ave., 920-4547

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC; Richard Reynolds Gallery, Jeannette Powell Art Center, Stockton, 209-946-3103, mschleier@uop.edu

URBAN HERBALIST; 1731 L St., 441-HERB

VIEWPOINT GALLERY; Gordon Hutchings, thru Apr. 13; Fine Print Auction and Drawing, June 2; 551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd., 441-2341

Theatre/Dance/Orchestra

AMERICAN RIVER THEATRE; A Midsummer Night's Dream, Apr. 20-29, Jack and the Giant, May; 4700 College Oak Dr., 484-8234

ARDEN PLAYHOUSE; The Amorous Ambassador, thru Apr. 7; 2120 Royale Rd., 927-0942

CALIFORNIA MUSICAL THEATRE; Fosse, May 8-19; Annie Get Your Gun, June 5-10; The Music Man, July 9-15; Into The Woods, July 16-22; Mame, July 23-29; Annie, July 30-Aug. 5; My Fair Lady, Aug. 6-12; Fiddler on the Roof, Aug. 13-19; Show Boat, Aug. 20-26; Wells Fargo Pavillion, 1419 H St., 557-1999, 446-5880

CALIFORNIA WIND ORCHESTRA; Courtly Dances, Apr. 28; call for location, 498-2576

CAMELLIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA; Musgrave, Prokofiev, & Brahms, June 2; 900 Howe Ave., 2nd Floor, 929-6655

CASTRO THEATRE; Sing-A-Long Sound of Music, Apr. 26, June 29-July 7; 429 Castro St., 510-601-TWEB, 415 621-6120

CHAUTAUQUA CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE; Gnome Sweet Gnome, thru Apr. 7; The Fat Cat, April 28-May 26; 5325 Engle Rd., Carm., 489-7259

CHAUTAUQUA PLAYHOUSE; This Day And Age, thru April 7; The Diary Of Anne Frank, April 20-May 26; 5325 Engle Rd., Carm., 489-7259

CITY THEATRE; The Importance Of Being Earnest, Apr. 20-May19; 3835 Freeport Blvd., 558-2228

THE CREST THEATRE; Marianne Williamson, Apr. 18; Leo Kottke, May 4; This Valley, May 9; 1013 K St., 442-7378, thecrest.com

CURRAN THEATRE; Contact, May 15-June 24; 445 Geary, SF, 415-512-7770

CSUS; Dream of a Common Language, thru Apr. 7; 6000 J St., 278-6156

FOOTHILL THEATRE COMPANY; Sylvia, thru Apr. 8; Fair Use, May 1-27; Resident Alien, June 14-Aug. 19; The Comedy of Errors & The Two Gentlemen of Verona, Aug. 31-Sept. 23; Wait Until Dark, Sept. 27-Oct. 28; The Secret Garden, Nov. 15-Dec. 30; location varies, 530-265-9320, 888-730-8587

GARBEAU'S DINNER THEATRE; Move Over Mrs. Markham, thru Apr. 29; Swingtime Canteen, May 4-June 24; Whodunnit?, July 20-Sept. 2; The Fantasticks, Sept. 7-Oct. 28; Forever Plaid, opens Nov. 20; Hwy 50 at Hazel Ave., 985-6361

THE LAMBDA PLAYERS; Opening Lines, thru Apr. 28; Lesbian Laugh Fest, May 12; Beautiful Thing, June 15-30; location varies, 484-4742

LUNA'S CAFE; Loretta Lynn Perez, Apr. 12; 1414 16th St., 441-3931

MAGIC THEATRE; House Of Lucky, thru Apr. 29; Bldg. D Ft. Mason Center, SF, 415-441-8822

MAIN STREET THEATRE WORKS; The Road To Mecca, May 4-June 2; Stage Fright, Sept. 7-Oct. 6; The Taming of the Shrew, Nov. 2-Dec. 1; Sutter Creek Theatre, 44 Main St., 209-267-5680

MARINES MEMORIAL THEATRE; Stomp, thru June 15; 609 Sutter St., SF, 877-771-6900

NAPA VALLEY SYMPHONY; Zuill Bailey, Apr. 1 & 3; Lincoln Theater, California Veterans Home, Yountville, 707-226-8742

ORCHESTRA OF ST. CECILIA; Corey Cerovsek, May 19; Jakub-Jerzy Omsky, Apr. 7; Carla Trynchuk, Nov. 18; First United Methodist Church, 989-9789

ORPHEUM THEATRE; Saturday Night Fever - The Musical, Apr. 10-May 6; 1192 Market St. SF, 415-551-2000

PAMELA TROKANSKI DANCE THEATRE; Out of Context, Into & Beyond, Apr. 5-7; Veterans Memorial Theater, 203 14th St., Davis, 530-756-3949

PEGASUS THEATRE COMPANY; Marvin's Room, thru Apr. 28; Pegasas Hall, 20347 Hwy. 116, Monte Rio, 707-522-9043

RIVER STAGE; The Chicago Conspiracy Trial, thru Apr. 22; How I Learned To Drive, July 7-22; Los Rios Community College District, 8401 Center Pkwy., 691-7364

SACRAMENTO BALLET COMPANY; Golden Age of Ballet Russe: Rite of Spring, Apollo, Aurora's Wedding, March 29-April 1; New Works Series: Modern Masters at CSUS, May 3-6; Community Center Theatre, 1631 K St., 552-5800

SACRAMENTO MASTER SINGERS; Reflections of Light, Apr. 28-29; First United Methodist Church, 2100 J St., 338-0300

SACRAMENTO MEN'S CHORUS; Jean Runyon Little Theater, Sac. Memorial Auditorium, 1500 J St., 264-5181

SACRAMENTO THEATRE COMPANY; The Millennium Monologues, thru Apr. 8; Shedding The Tiger, thru April 1; We Are Family, Apr. 17-May 13; 1419 H St., 443-6722

SAN FRANCISCO JAZZ; Avishai Cohen Quintet, Apr. 1; Joshua Redman Quartet and Russell Gunn's Ethnomusicology, Apr. 1; Geri Allen, Apr. 20; Marcus Roberts, Apr. 21-22; Gonzalo Rubalcaba, Apr. 22; Ray Brown Trio and Christian McBride Band, May 25; Dave Holland Quintet and Mingus Amungus, May 26; Mingus Amungus, May 27; Joshua Redman and Christian McBride Duo, May 27; location varies, 415-398-5655, sfjazz.org

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA COMPANY; Rigoletto, Sept. 7-29; Arshak II (Arsace II), Sept. 8-30; Samson Et Dalila, Sept. 22-Oct. 14; Die Meistersinger Von Nurnberg, Oct. 10-28; Tosca, Oct. 23-Jan. 20; Falstaff, Nov. 1-24; Jenufa, Nov. 19-Dec. 9; Ther Merry Widow, Nov. 27-Jan. 19; Carmen, June 8-July 6; Madama Butterfly, June 9-July 5; Giulio Cesare, June 19-July 7; War Memorial Opera House, 455 Franklin St., SF, 415-861-3330, sfopera.com

THE STUDIO THEATRE; Six Women With Brain Death, ongoing, 8pm; 1028 R St., 446-2668

THEATRE RHINOCEROS; The P.A. Cooley Show, Apr. 5-May 13; 2926 16th St., SF, 415-370-5544

TRUE LOVE CAFE; Loretta Lynn Perez, Apr. 13; 2406 J St., 492-9002

UC DAVIS PRESENTS; The Eroica Trio, Apr. 5; Mark Morris Dance Group, Apr. 11; Paco de Lucia & Septet, Apr. 12; Carnegie Hall Jazz Band with Jon Faddis, Apr. 23; Cornel West: Scholar And Activist, Apr. 25; Mapapa African Acrobats, Apr. 29; Wycliffe Gordon Quartet, May 11; The Saint Lawrence String Quartet, May 17; Afro-Cuban All Stars, June 7; location varies, 530-757-3199

THE WOODLAND OPERA HOUSE; Two by Two, thru Apr. 14; Foxfire, May 25-June 16; 340 Second St., Woodland, 530-666-9617

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Breaking Barriers Cancer Support Project and the Breast Cancer Treatment Fund are looking for volunteers to provide support, transportation, and food delivery. Marsha 447-2497 tfn

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INVESTOR WANTED!

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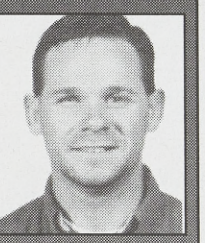

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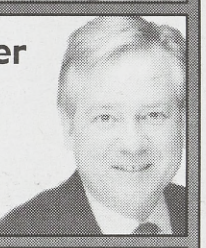

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